

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00

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R 151405Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0755

INFO USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 2572

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, UNDP, AR

SUBJECT: CERP 0008 - EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF: A) BA-2394; B) STATE 064907

1. GENERAL - UNDP RESREP HUGO NAVAJAS MOGRO, AND UNDP DEPUTY RESREP SARAH L. TIMPSON ARRIVED BUENOS AIRES FOUR MONTHS AGO. THEY ARE BOTH STILL "SETTLING IN" SO IT'S DIFFICULT TO MAKE SERIOUS JUDGMENT REGARDING THEIR EFFECTIVENESS OR CURRENT EFFECTIVENESS UNDP PROGRAM HERE. HOWEVER, BASED ON RECENT MEETING WITH THEM, EMBOFF OFFERS FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS TO UPDATE AND SUPPLEMENT EVALUATION CONTAINED REF A.

2. COORDINATION - UNDP IS PRINCIPAL SOURCE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN ARGENTINA, SO COORDINATION WITH OTHER BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ORGANS DOES NOT APPEAR MAJOR PROBLEM. WHAT MAY BE PROBLEM IS ESTABLISHING BETTER COORDINATION WITH GOA ITSELF, ESPECIALLY IN
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PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND SELECTION OF PRIORITIES. NEW RESREP HAS ESTABLISHED APPROPRIATE CONTACT WITH OFFICE

OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF ECONOMY HEADED BY SAUL BAUER. HOWEVER, HE NOTES WEAKNESS OF GOA PLANNING CAPACITY AND DIFFICULTY OF ESTABLISHING PERMANENT AND EFFECTIVE DIALOGUE WITH GOA TO ENSURE APPROPRIATE CONTINUITY AND COORDINATION IN UNDP ACTIVITIES.

3. PROJECT PRIORITIES - UNDP REP SAID ONE OF HIS OBJECTIVES WOULD BE TO SEEK CONCENTRATION UNDP RESOURCES IN HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS AND SECTORS REDUCING FRAGMENTATION OF UNDP EFFORT HERE. AFTER REVIEWING UNDP NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR 1972-1976, EMBOFF SUPPORTS THIS OBJECTIVE. IN PRACTISE, CURRENT UNDP TA APPEARS WIDELY DISPERSED OVER 14 DIFFERENT SECTORS INCLUDING MANY SMALL PROJECTS. INCREASED CONCENTRATION OF RESOURCES ON IMPORTANT PROJECTS IN KEY SECTORS, AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION, FOR EXAMPLE, COULD IMPROVE OVERALL EFFICIENCY OF UNDP PROGRAM. AT THE SAME TIME, WE RECOGNIZE THAT SOME SMALL UN-SPONSORED PROJECTS MAY WELL HAVE GREAT IMPORTANCE TO BUILDING UP CAPABILITIES IN CERTAIN SECTORS, E.G. IAEA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FIELD OF PEACEFUL APPLICATIONS OF ATOMIC ENERGY. HENCE, WE WOULD NOT PROPOSE COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF SMALL PROJECTS, BUT RATHER THAT THE UN AND HOST COUNTRY BE URGED TO TAKE A HARD LOOK AT PRIORITIES.

4. WOMEN - UN RESREP FULLY RECOGNIZED IMPORTANCE, AND OPPORTUNITY, OF EMPHASIZING ROLE OF WOMEN IN UNDP DEVELOPMENT WORK ESPECIALLY DURING CURRENT PERIOD OF ARGENTINE HISTORY UNDER MRS. PERON. EMBOFF NOTED THAT DEPUTY RESREP WAS A WOMAN.

5. EMBASSY CONTACT - ALTHOUGH US BILATERAL AID PROGRAM IN ARGENTINA HAS NOW BEEN PHASED OUT, IT WAS AGREED THAT CLOSE EMBASSY-UNDP CONTACT IN FUTURE WOULD BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL. RESREP AGREED TO CONTINUE TO KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED OF PROPOSED NEW PROJECTS. HE MENTIONED ANNUAL COUNTRY PROGRAM REVIEW EXPECTED IN JUNE.

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